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1. On 29 May 1949, the Third Volkskongress, sponsored by the Soviet zone SED, met in Berlin. There were 2000 delegates present, of whom approximately 600 were from the western zones of Germany. During the congress, the creation of a National Front of Democratic Germany was proclaimed, the National Front (NF) to function in all of Germany.
2. At first, the National Democratic Party was charged with the task of building up NF strength, apparently because the NF, like the NDP, was meant to attract former Nazis. In February 1950, after a reorganization and expansion of the NF organization in the east zone, the SED took over active leadership of the movement. The expansion included establishment of NF committees on all political levels, headed by a NF council in Berlin.
3. The basic aim of the NF is to convince the German people, primarily those in the West, of the need for a united Germany. For this reason, and, in general, in order to carry Communist propaganda into Western Germany, much effort has been expended toward building up the NF in the western zones. Up to the present time, however, no organization of the NF, as such, has appeared in the western zones. It has, instead, done its work through front organizations, either set up as such, or penetrated by it.
4. The effort of the NF to build its strength around existing organizations in Western Germany, outside of Communist groups, has met with little success. At a meeting of the NF secretariat held in March 1950, Fritz Otto, a NF official, said that in Western Germany the NF can only depend for support on the KPD, and then not sufficiently. He felt that KPD leadership does not realize the importance of winning cooperation of Social Democratic and other non-Communist forces. Dr. von Stolzenberg, Soviet zone state official, admitted that the task of the NF in Western Germany is difficult because no parties or organizations are willing to support it.

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5. The objective of the SED in the West is to build or use organizations and persons who are not identified with KPD and who may not even know how they are being used. Support is sought from all groups: ex-soldiers, ex-Nazis, women, youth, workers, capitalists.
6. The program of the National Front has been stated as follows:
 1. Creation of a unified, democratic, peaceful and independent Germany and return of Berlin to its position as capital.
 2. Setting aside of the occupation statute, Ruhr statute, ending the autonomy of the Saar.
 3. Fighting against remilitarization of Western Germany and Western German participation in the North Atlantic Pact and European Union.
 4. Banning warmongering, national and race hatred in Germany.
 5. Fighting against dismantling and grabbing of German industry by the Anglo-American imperialists.
 6. Combatting the growing economic crisis in Western Germany through development of free international trade, without interference of western imperialists, especially trade with the USSR and other people's democracies.
 7. Fostering development of trade between Eastern and Western Germany without interference of U. S. interests.
 8. Fighting for democratization of Western Germany, against renazification which is fostered by Anglo-American imperialists.
 9. Fighting against exploitation of Western Germany by Anglo-American imperialists and their German helpers, the industrialists, bankers and Junkers.
 10. Defending German culture against the cultural barbarism of U. S. imperialism.
7. The extent to which the NF program is aimed at Western Germany is obvious. It also attempts to attract all kinds of people on all kinds of grounds, some of which are mutually exclusive. It uses the desire for unity, German nationalism, anti-fascism, the German desire for expanded trade, idealism, and above all, possible resentment against the occupying powers in Western Germany.
8. The failure of the KPD to gain support in Western Germany was among the reasons for Communist concentration on the NF as a means of influence. However, it seems that they failed to hide party interests sufficiently, and the NF has made little progress as an organization thus far.
9. The NF in Western Germany exists only in the form of the various Communist-sponsored or influenced organizations functioning in the area. At that, only a few organizations have openly declared themselves to be part of the NF, although others are just as clearly Communist fronts. All groups, however, have either parroted the NF program or have at least leaned on it in their own programs or propaganda statements.
10. The major organizations in Western Germany which are either acknowledged parts of the NF, or follow its line, are:
 1. Freie Deutsche Jugend (Free German Youth) (FDJ)

FDJ is one of the most active front groups in Western Germany, and is undoubtedly depended upon heavily by the NF leadership in its attempt to grow. FDJ has behind it the entire counterpart organization in the Soviet zone, in terms of financial support, propaganda and advice.

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German functionaries on 26 February 1950, reads almost like a copy of the NF platform. It mentions unity of Germany, repeal of the occupation status, demilitarization, elimination of western imperialist interests, among others.

The strength of FDJ reached slightly more than 12,000 in January, 1949. Membership apparently dropped steadily after that, but West German participation in the recent White-tide rally in Berlin would seem to indicate an increase in membership in recent months. The greatest FDJ strength lies in the Ruhr and other areas of Communist concentration. Other centers of considerable activity are Frankfurt/Main, Munich and Stuttgart.

Headquarters of FDJ is located in Frankfurt, Domplatz 12. Leaders are Helmut Heinz, Jakob Goldberg and Ilse Nachsmuth.

II. Vereinigung der Verfolgten des Naziregimes (League of Victims of Fascism) (VVN)

VVN as an organization has its roots in the Nazi concentration camps, in which inmates began to band together even before their departure after liberation. It was originally a group without any specific political orientation. The Communist victims of fascism, however, formed the most active group in VVN and gradually took over control of the organization.

VVN is an acknowledged part of the NF. In February, 1950, August Kuper, chairman of VVN, Messe, said that Germans must join the NF to assure peace, and to work for Germany's unity, a peace treaty and removal of occupation armies.

The VVN program for 1950 provides for:

1. Association with all groups which support peace and German unity.
2. Discussions and conferences to work toward agreement between East and West, and settlement of German problems.
3. A campaign against anti-semitism.
4. Exchange of information, materials and lecturers to help in accomplishing the tasks of VVN.

Artur Ketterer is chief of VVN in the U. S. zone.

August Kuper is chairman of VVN for Messe, and also member of the central council of Sozialdemokratische Aktion, another Communist front.

III. Komitee der Kämpfer für den Frieden (Committee of Partisans for Peace) (KKFP)

In August 1949, the Vorläufiges Komitee der Friedensbewegung (Provisional Committee for the Peace Movement), headed by Dr. Adolf von Hatzfeld, and formed by 'West German peace lovers', announced a decision to organize in a unified peace movement all friends of peace in West Germany. This movement was to be a part of the world peace movement organized by the Communist Party under the name of 'Partisans for Peace'.

In January 1950, the organization of the KKFP in Westdeutschland was announced, its headquarters to be in Frankfurt/Main, its chief to be Dr. von Hatzfeld. Other officials are Gerhard Lohrath, secretary, and Konrad Frielinghaus. Offices are at Domplatz 12 (same building as FDJ headquarters), and Schweizerstrasse 30, both Frankfurt/Main.

KKFP chapters have been organized in Stuttgart, Wiesbaden, Darmstadt, Mannheim, Bremen, Wuppertal, Düsseldorf. Land congresses have been held in Stuttgart (Stuttenger-Aden) and Düsseldorf (Nordrhein-Westphalien).

Stated aims of KKFP include:

1. Cessation of the armaments race.

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2. An end to the terrible threat of atomic bombardment.
3. Cessation of the wars of intervention in Indonesia, Malaya and Indochina.
4. Ending of efforts to repress the fight for peace, to break down popular resistance and to prepare for war.
5. Punishment of warmongers.
6. Signature of a German peace treaty.
7. Removal of occupation forces.

The major activity of KKPF has been participation in the world-wide signature campaign against the atom bomb. The limited success of this campaign in West Germany has been indicated by the fact that the period during which signatures would be solicited was lengthened just before its scheduled end.

IV. Sozialdemokratische Aktion (Social Democratic Action) (SDA)

On 16 October 1949, 40 extreme left-wing socialists met in Frankfurt/Main and announced the formation of SDA, whose aim would be to rejuvenate the Social Democratic Party (SPD) by a return to true Marxism. An executive committee was elected, consisting of Hans Ziegler, August Kuper, and Arthur von Machui, all expelled from SPD. Ziegler, ex-Gauleiter of Württemberg, had been expelled for participation in the Moscow Peace Congress in August, 1949. Kuper had been expelled for refusal to leave WVM when ordered to. von Machui had been expelled for collaboration with the KPD.

Members of the central council, in addition to the above-mentioned, are Georg Beckmann, Horst Boje, Edmund Heinikel, Otto Leven, Maria Heidrich.

SDA leadership has stated repeatedly that they are socialists, not Communists, that they have no desire to split the SPD, but merely to expose its leadership and change its policy from one of bourgeois degeneration to militant Marxism. However, they call for collaboration with the SPD as a sister socialist party, friendly relations with the DPA, and neutrality between East and West. SDA also has attacked the 'Western imperialist powers', the Bonn government, the Marshall Plan, and West German remilitarization.

SDA has not acknowledged membership in the NF. However, von Machui has declared that it is the duty of all socialists to support the NF. SDA has officially supported the communist peace campaign in Germany. Kuper, in March 1950, stated that "we are not neutral, but we are friends of the USSR."

V. Demokratische Frauenbund Deutschlands (Democratic Women's League of Germany) (DFD)

DFD, a NF organization in the Soviet zone, was introduced into the western zones of Germany early in 1950. KPD in March 1950 announced its support of the development of DFD in West Germany.

In April 1950, a meeting of delegates from Westphalia was held in Essen, and a Land organization established. Chapters were also formed in Bremen, Nürnberg, Hanau, Frankfurt, Wiesbaden.

The program of the DFD includes

1. Work for German unity.
2. Work for peace and an end to Western remilitarization.
3. Opposition to the occupation statute.

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4. Opposition to German entry into the European council.
5. Opposition to the Atlantic Pact.

DFD has participated in the petition campaign of the Komitee der Kämpfer für den Frieden.

Among the leading personalities are Erika Buchmann, apparent chief for West Germany, and Johanna Wanner, chief for Nordrhein-Westphalen.

VI. Gesellschaft zum Studium der Sowjet Union (Society for the Study of the Soviet Union) (GSSU)

GSSU is, in effect, the West German counterpart of the Soviet zone Gesellschaft für deutsch-sowjetische Freundschaft (Society for German-Soviet Friendship), which supports the western zone group, primarily by supplying it with speakers for its meetings.

GSSU's stated purpose is to acquaint people with the culture, economy and social order of the USSR - the greatest force for peace in the world today. The organization's major activity is the holding of public meetings at which speakers discuss the USSR in terms of its art, music, literature, social progress, etc., all aimed, of course, at painting a glowing picture of the Soviet utopia.

Chapters of GSSU are claimed by the leadership to have been organized in Frankfurt, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Hannover, Kassel, Munich, Braunschweig, Dortmund, and Bochum.

VII. Mauheimer Kreis (Mainheim Circle) (MK)

The Mauheimer Kreis, child of Dr. Ulrich Noack, differs basically from most other Communist front organizations in Western Germany in that it was formed probably without Communist inspiration or participation, and in that the Communist role in the group is not as clear as in others. Wittingly or unwittingly, however, Dr. Noack has been serving the ends of Soviet propaganda.

MK was formed in the autumn of 1948 as a loose organization centered around Noack and seeking German neutrality and unity between East and West. Noack, a professor of history at the University of Würzburg, has a questionable background of involvement with the Nazi party, of friendship with Viktor Quisling.

Noack has denied any connection between MK and the RF or other east zone organizations. He has been attacked on occasion by the east zone press. Despite this, it is obvious that Noack is playing the Soviet game with his talk of unity, his attacks on the West and his whitewashing of the East.